

# AVIATION

*The Oldest American Aeronautical Magazine*

FEBRUARY 4, 1924

Issued Weekly

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U. S. naval flying boat at anchor in a lagoon on the east coast of Nicaragua

*Credit Photo by A. Mery*

VOLUME  
XVI

## SPECIAL FEATURES

NUMBER  
5

THE BEAUMONT CUP REGULATIONS  
REVIEW OF NEW AIRCRAFT INSTRUMENTS  
DESCRIPTION OF A COMMERCIAL SEAPLANE BASE  
RECENT PROGRESS IN ITALIAN AIRSHIP CONSTRUCTION

THE GARDNER, MOFFAT CO., Inc.  
HIGHLAND, N. Y.  
225 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

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## Overcoming Cold Weather Handicaps

TWENTY years ago, only a few far-sighted men realized the possibilities of transportation by air. There was then no thought of an aviation industry. The Wright Brothers' flight at Kitty Hawk of 59 seconds was considered remarkable. No one even imagined that mail would one day be carried by airplane from New York to California in twenty-six hours.

Now the situation is very much different. All but a few skeptics agree that aviation is fast developing to the point where aircraft will soon compete profitably with other means of transportation.

But before this competition can be at-

tempted, it is essential, among other things, that service be rendered regardless of the weather conditions.

Cold weather is one of the main handicaps to continuous service. But just as the automobile industry overcame this difficulty, so can the aviation industry overcome it.

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## Publisher's News Letter

The lighter-than-air field of aeronautics has always been more of a problem than the heavier-than-air branch of aircraft development. The progress that has been made in airships has seemed to follow no definite plan of expansion. Airships, whether small or large, rigid or nonrigid, built of metal, fabric or of wood—all have been built without thought of a continuous program. Possibly this has largely been due to the indefinite nature of the uses to which this type of aircraft can be put.

The optimists have insisted on the certain financial success of the large airships, and have built around it a prospective commercial future that has appealed to the imagination of the public.

\* \* \* \*

As far back as anyone in aeronautics can remember, the stock offerings of some of the typical airship promoters that have followed one another with regularity have always been emphasizing the commercial future of lighter-than-air transport. The pictorial element in connection with these offerings has been offering to its imaginative counterpart of sea travel. Many credulous investors have been attracted by these mostly impractical ventures, and after a time as more was heard of the projected airship lines that were to be put in operation between our larger cities. Perhaps it is because of the unbusinesslike methods of these promoters that airship progress has been so slow.

\* \* \* \*

The present situation in this field is more promising. The Goodyear group, with its Zeppelin affiliation, the American Investigation Corporation with its Schenck-Lanz construction, and the Upson

group in Detroit in the pioneer of an original American design, all appear to be considering airship transportation as a serious industrial and commercial enterprise rather than as a stock promotion scheme. Two other organizations, the Comaircraft and the Massenaipoint groups, are also conducting lighter-than-air activities. With so much talent concentrated on the problem, and with the best field for airship operation available in this country, the branch of aeronautics in a few years time ought to begin to show some definite signs of life.

\* \* \* \*

Probably no other aeronautical publication in the world has done as much as AVIATION to keep its readers adequately informed of the advance of airship engineering. An article printed in this issue is but another proof of it. While having some definite opinions as to the utility of airships for passenger and freight transportation, an open mind has been turned toward all endeavors in this line with the hope of learning of a really profitable plan which would bring the airship into a legitimate sphere of aerial activity. Airship people have, as a rule, been so ambitious in their projects that one has seemed capable of resolving the starting point of their enterprise, though from some of the publicity appearing in the press the most elaborate of these schemes always seemed imminent in its execution.

With the past in mind, it is to be hoped that in the future there will be less exaggeration and more practical progress in the lighter-than-air field. The airship, just as the airplane, can only be "sold" to the public by actual demonstration. The airplane is in a fair way to reap the benefits of this day in day out demonstration. The airship has yet to make the grade.

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# AVIATION

Vol. XVI

FEBRUARY 4, 1934

No. 5

### Looking at the Calendar

THIS Calendar of Aeronautical Events which appears again with this issue of AVIATION, now that the flying season draws near in the northern latitudes, is worth more than a cursory glance.

Along the principal international events one by one, and remembering America's standing in each category of aircraft, a pertinent reminder suggests themselves to the observant reader.

Starting with the oldest type of aircraft contest, the free balloon, the Gordon Bennett Balloon Cup now reminds us of the gratifying fact that American balloons were this international contest four times. Had they but won it three times in succession, the Cup would have become America's permanent property. But one past performance in international ballooning contests gave sufficient ground for the hope that the famous Cup may yet come into America's possession.

In the matter of balloon records our standing is not so high. German balloons hold sway over the three recognized balloon records for maximum capacity, altitude, distance and duration. In this connection AVIATION can but repeat what it has said for two years past, namely, that the Army and the Navy Sea Service should endeavor to bring together lighter-than-air craft speeds to America—just as they have done in the case of airplane records.

In high speed airplane events our superiority—as shown in the Pulitzer Trophy race—has not been seriously challenged for the past two years. Hence it is to be expected that France, England and Italy will, this year, do their utmost to carry the Pulitzer Trophy across the sea. The same remark applies to the Schneider Cup, which our need aviation was the first time lost full.

It must be realized by those who perhaps look askance upon the expedition involved in preparing international speed races, that victory in these events exerts a world wide influence upon the aeronautical market. When Italian machines have been winning the Schneider Cup some years after year, the direction of aircraft air services and the pilots of the countries which lack an aircraft industry quite actually assured the impression that Italian engineers were far superior to all others. At a recent Italian manufacturer's request orders to engineers from South Africa, South America, Spain, South America and other regions. When an American plane won abroad and beats the whole European coalition, it advertises the fact to those same air officers that we have something that performs better than anything Europe can produce. But no such victory is not sufficient to eradicate past sympathies and antipathies. The victory must be repeated to bring about practical results in the form of government orders. Hence we hope that our belated preparation for this year's Pulitzer

and Schneider Cup races will be at the most thoroughgoing kind.

Another valuable reminder the Calendar of Aeronautical Events furnishes is the fact that so far only vague and distant hopes have been expressed with regard to holding an American light plane meet the coming season. Our backwardness in this line of aeronautical progress is best exemplified by the fact that next season there will take place in France a cross country race of several hundred miles' length restricted to low powered airplanes. The winner is that which is run, while we have nothing in the air as yet. In fact, we have neither any glider that can perform like some of the best French and German gliders, the very machines which made possible the development of high performance light planes. And the reason we have no gliders is that no incentive was offered during the past two years to American glider enthusiasts to spend some energy and money on this type of aircraft.

This field, then, is the one where we are sadly deficient. Some liberal monetary rewards would be required to bring us up to date with the rest of the world in the field of gliders and light planes.

While this field offers less of a spectacular appeal than hot speed races, the light plane appears to be such a promising development toward more economical and more efficient flight that we cannot afford to stand back and let Europe do all the development work.

### Twenty Years Ago

THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE on January 24 reported: "Down its course of January 24, 1914, an interesting record of how at a comparatively recent date those who believed in flying were almost as vacillating."

To quote the author: "Representative Ballou, of Indiana, in the House today advocated bitterly the War Department's policy in spending money to aid in the development of the Langley airship. He said the department had paid \$200,000 into a project 'which every sensible man knows has no utility.' He continued: 'There is \$200,000 of the people's money wasted on the scientific aerial navigation experiment because some man, presumably a professor, wandering in his dreams, was able to impress the officers that his aerial flight scheme had some utility.'"

And now, but twenty years later, the incredulity of Representative Robinson will be looked upon by most people with tolerant amusement.

There are probably today in aeronautics many projects that seem no less impracticable than Langley's "aerodrome" looked in 1903, but which in 1934 may be accepted as everyday routine.





We clearly see the enormous progress that has been made. The efficiency of the P31 is about 2.5 times greater than that of the P, whereas the efficiency of the G3 is 2.5 times that of the P, and 1.6 that of the P31.

In view of its small capacity, the RCA cannot be compared to advantage except if it is with aircraft B. The data and results follow:

CHARACTERISTICS OF B AND RCA TYPE AIRSHIP									
Type	Volume	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P
B	2110	0.36	85	85	85	85	85	85	85
RCA	2110	0.36	85	85	85	85	85	85	85

Consequently we find an appreciable improvement in the size of the RCA of 38 per cent with respect to the aircraft B, notwithstanding the extremely small capacity, which is very close to the maximum practical limit for the construction of an airship.

### Type N Airship

The type of airship which we have described briefly, is characterized by a superficial metal framing which, on front, extends and develops into a tail-offspring for maintaining the outside pressure, and in the rear, into a tail-offspring for maintaining the visibility and maneuvering surfaces. Especially suited for small capacities, we consider it as an excellent type for capacities up to 6000 cu. m, but it may also be adopted with good results for larger capacities up to at least 15,000 cu. m. For volumes over 15,000 cu. m, there is an advantage in maintaining the superficial efficiency of the hull pressure to the front, and instead of it is expedient to adopt a pressure-skin, which may be realized by means of a metal framing having a transversal section of triangular, or, more generally, polygonal shape.

Two longitudinal beams of the framing (when of triangular section) run along two transversal meridians of the hull, and the relative movable joint axis on this case composed and are situated in the top of the steel calumny suspension where the lifting force of the gas is concentrated. The T34 (Bonal) belonged to this type (15,000 cu. m.), the excellent results reached in the tests fully confirming the possibility and the advantage of using stress-skin structures also for large capacities.

The N type is undoubtedly a great improvement on the T34 concept, of course, as regards the volume, which was fixed at only 15,000 cu. m. in view of easily becoming it on all the earlier balloons in Italy (Rome, Milan, Trieste) without however recovering the advantage of a well-shaped hull which is impossible of realization with a larger capacity than that adopted.

The following are the chief modifications introduced in the N type of airship which must be considered distinct improvements in comparison with the T34 type:

- 1 A hull shape of better proportions.
- 2 A tail-offspring for sustaining the fixed and movable planes.
- 3 A control-valve located forward, near the bow, with sufficient velocity for the control of the gas pressure, in accordance with the interior of the hull-inflation, the space in this type being utilized for locating the propulsion and with tanks.
- 4 Engine nacelles detached from the hull and suspended to the hull-offspring by means of simple steel cables.
- 5 Reduction to a minimum of all the pressure resistances, and consequently suppression of the lateral air intakes for feeding the compressor chamber of the hull.

### Shape of the Hull

Longitudinal shape. Undoubtedly the selection of a suitable shape is of paramount importance for securing maximum aerodynamic efficiency. Moreover, the selection is influenced also by considerations of various kinds, as for instance, the distribution of the lifting forces and of the loads. In our particular case we were obliged to base our selection on a compromise between the convenience of having a shape of the hull possible practically, and that of having an airship of the largest capacity commensurate with existing means of accommodation. The longitudinal shape adopted in our case

may be seen in Fig. 3, which shows the longitudinal shape of a model of the airship M (built in 1915), a model of the airship T34 (built in 1915) and a model of the airship N.

On the resistance to advance of the three models being assumed in the wind tunnel (15 m. H<sub>2</sub>O), where  $V$  is expressed in m. sec.,  $c$  in kg. (H<sub>2</sub>O) and  $N$  in kg., we found the following values for  $k$ :

Shape	I	II	III
	0.0076	0.0041	0.0035

These values are considered in a relative sense, because they are all larger than those ascertained from experiments on the real airships. At any rate they demonstrate that while the shape selected for the new type of airship could be even better yet, it is superior to those adopted for the M and T34 types.

Transverse shape. Fig. 4 shows the shape of the major cross-section of the airship N at normal flying position. Compared to the section of the T34, the width of the metal framing is such that its inclined members lie on the tangents of the hull shape, consequently the resultant angle of resistance in the T34 is entirely diminished.

The system of rigid steel cable external suspension for collecting the lifting force of the upper part of the hull and connecting it directly to the keel of the metal framing, substantially is not different to that adopted in the former Italian airships of a capacity up to 800 cu. m. The purpose

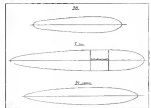


Fig. 3. Hull shapes, in longitudinal section, of the Italian airships of the M, P and N types

of such a system is dual, viz. that of reducing the stresses on the cables forming the outside envelope, and that of reducing the maximum vertical diameter of the hull.

In the case of the airship type N the rigid external suspension is two in number; in correspondence of each one of which the hull surface is depressed.

The question was whether or not these longitudinal depressions had the effect of reducing head resistance. To solve which I tested a model (1:200) of the T34 in the wind tunnel first with fairings (three in number) and then without them. The results were so very peculiar that I think they are worth reporting. The results are expressed in grams and the test wind velocities in meters per second. The tests were made with different vertical positions of the model on the wind direction.

IMPACT OF PERFORATED HULL ON HEAD RESISTANCE									
Wind velocity in Meters per Second									
with pressure-skin fair. with fair. without fair. with fair. without fair.									
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40
45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55
60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60

\*Wind tunnel tests of a proposed T342 type, of 150,000 cu. m. capacity gave  $k$  as 0.0035.

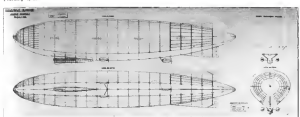


Fig. 4. General arrangement drawings of the new Italian N type airship, now building in the Italian government airship factory near Rome

From the above figures it may be deduced that in every case the effect of the fairings is to diminish head resistance, so we may conclude that these fairings are negligible, particularly when the axis of the airship is in the direction of the wind.

Subsequently I planned another series of tests in view of ascertaining the importance of the angular pear shape of the hull in comparison with a round shape. To this end I had the head resistance of two models (1:200) measured, one of which reproduced the hull of the T34, and the other, while having the same volume and the same longitudinal shape, constituted a body of revolution.

The results were as follows:

Wind velocity		Pear shape		Round shape	
		(Resistance in grams)		(Resistance in grams)	
10	10	10	10	10	10
15	15	15	15	15	15
20	20	20	20	20	20
25	25	25	25	25	25
30	30	30	30	30	30
35	35	35	35	35	35
40	40	40	40	40	40
45	45	45	45	45	45
50	50	50	50	50	50
55	55	55	55	55	55
60	60	60	60	60	60

From these figures we may deduce that the pear shape has greater head resistance than the round shape, but the difference is only 2 to 3 per cent, which is practically negligible.

The third drawing, An island above, the hull of the hull is the N type is realized by means of a pressure-skin, with triangular sections connected to the top of the external calumny suspension; in correspondence with the central axis (the keel) forms part of the hull-framing, this has a triangular shape.

The three longitudinal members of the framing, as also the three members of the triangular section, are made of steel and are similar in construction to that of the type of airship with a superficial offspring. Each beam consists of three steel tubes arranged in the shape of a triangle joined by diagonal bracing. Also in this case the beams are articulated at the keel. The articulation of the joints and the use of arranged diagonals of steel cables, impart great elasticity to the framing, so that it is able to absorb accidental shocks due to loads landing on shocks occurring in the event of the airship being lowered close to the ground or on the water for a considerable time.

The strength of the framing is such that it is able easily well to resist any abnormal stresses that might be caused in the event of the gas compartment getting accidentally ruptured, which is quite possible during service in war time.

Control Cable, Engine Core. The control cable is located forward. As stated above it forms part of the hull-offspring, and is in direct communication with the interior of the hull. The top part of the cable is received for the pilots, and includes all the equipment and instruments necessary for navigation, as well as a radiotelegraph and radiotelephone set. The passengers are accommodated in the back part of the

skin. There is accommodation for twenty passengers, with very modern comfort for a long trip.

The three engine cars, whose framework is of duralumin, have a good decelerator. They communicate easily with the interior of the hull although surrounded by steel cables, which system is of undoubted advantage in the event of accidental shocks on the ground. Each engine car is equipped with sea life buoy, which by means of a firing cable drives a propeller. One of the ailerons may have a reverse gear engine.

Rear-offspring and Tail-offspring. The hull-offspring, at both ends of the airship extends in such a way that both the nose and the tail may be considered rigid and rigidly joined to the hull-framing.

In this type of airship the tail-offspring, whose purpose is to sustain the stabilizers and control planes, is not substantially different from that of the RCA, G3 and PM type described above. However, as regards the rear-offspring there is one important difference. The steering, in the case of the above three airships, must be realized by a steering system, because it is unable to maintain its firm in the event of the internal pressure lacking; whereas in the N type it is really a rigid system and rigidly connected to the metal framing so that the nose is practically non-deformable even if the internal pressure should fail entirely. This characteristic is clearly of the highest importance because it obviates the risk of the trouble of regulating with great attention the pressure of the gas during navigation.

### Conclusions

The general dimensions and characteristics of the new type of airship follow:

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE N TYPE AIRSHIP									
Capacity	20,000 cu. m.								
Length	150 m.								
Span	30 m.								
Maximum height	30 m.								
Maximum weight	100 tons								
Maximum speed	150 km.								
Endurance	100 hours								
Consumption	1000 lbs. of 1150 grams per cubic meter								

If the speed and useful load given above are realized by actual test flights, as we hope, we shall get for the new type of airship the following results:

Utilization coefficient	$\frac{1}{10} = 0.10$
Ratio of propeller efficiency	$\frac{1}{10} = 0.10$
coefficient of resistance	$\frac{1}{10} = 0.10$
Efficiency of the airship	$\frac{1}{10} = 0.10$











## Baltimore News

Sp. W. D. Types

**A 1500 hp. Aircraft Engine**  
According to the *Ministero Aerospazio*, the Italian Air Department has approved the construction of a six cylinder aircraft engine with cylinder of which will develop 250 hp. This 1500 hp. engine will be called the Stromboli.

Davies, Norris

By Maurice C. Hunt

The winners of first, second and third place in this contest will form the teams of three contestants which will represent this country in the International Garden Bennett Ballroom Race which will be held at Brussels, Belgium, June 15, 1938.

## U. S. ARMY AND NAVY AIR FORCES

## U. S. ARMY AIR SERVICE

### Answer: Order

The Canal is open to attack by aircraft bombardment and raids from enemy naval forces.

.....

## U. S. NAVAL AVIATION

### Orders to Officers

Dec. 17, Twelfth-First anniversary of the first successful airplane flight.

## CALENDAR OF AERONAUTICAL EVENTS

Dec. 17, Trophy Race, Dayton, Ohio.  
Twenty-first anniversary of the first

Species	Part	Measure	Accuracy
Chorus	FORM 100	80	90
Chorus	FORM 200	80	90
Chorus	FORM 300	80	90
Chorus	FORM 400	80	90
Chorus	FORM 500	80	90
Chorus	FORM 600	80	90
Chorus	FORM 700	80	90
Chorus	FORM 800	80	90
Chorus	FORM 900	80	90
Chorus	FORM 1000	80	90
Chorus	FORM 1100	80	90
Chorus	FORM 1200	80	90
Chorus	FORM 1300	80	90
Chorus	FORM 1400	80	90
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Chorus	FORM 1600	80	90
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Chorus	FORM 1800	80	90
Chorus	FORM 1900	80	90
Chorus	FORM 2000	80	90
Chorus	FORM 2100	80	90
Chorus	FORM 2200	80	90
Chorus	FORM 2300	80	90
Chorus	FORM 2400	80	90
Chorus	FORM 2500	80	90
Chorus	FORM 2600	80	90
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Chorus	FORM 4100	80	90
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Chorus	FORM 5000	80	90
Chorus	FORM 5100	80	90
Chorus	FORM 5200	80	90
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Chorus	FORM 6100	80	90
Chorus	FORM 6200	80	90
Chorus	FORM 6300	80	90
Chorus	FORM 6400	80	90
Chorus	FORM 6500	80	90
Chorus	FORM 6600	80	90
Chorus	FORM 6700	80	90
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Chorus	FORM 6900	80	90
Chorus	FORM 7000	80	90
Chorus	FORM 7100	80	90
Chorus	FORM 7200	80	90
Chorus	FORM 7300	80	90
Chorus	FORM 7400	80	90
Chorus	FORM 7500	80	90
Chorus	FORM 7600	80	90
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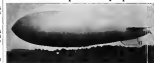
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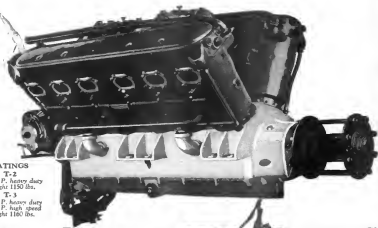
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